

# Gender Studies

(CSS-2022)

(Q4)

Shed light on first wave and third wave feminism. (20 Marks)

## INTRODUCTION:

For women to attain freedom and their universal rights, there have been feminist movements, mostly in the West to bring women at par with men. Initially, women were treated as **subordinates** and it had been normalized everywhere. However, once the feminist movements began, their effects spiraled down in other regions as well. Thereby, enabling all the countries across the globe to **acknowledge women's rights and equality**. First and second wave of feminism dealt with **basic rights of women** while the **third wave** further empowered women to **speak up for their unrecognized rights**.

## FIRST WAVE OF FEMINISM!

The first wave of feminism began in the 19th century and lasted upto 1920's. Furthermore, it began after an article was published in the **New York Times**, titled as, "The Second wave of feminism: What do these women want?"

### First Wave of Feminism and Britain:

In early 1840s and 1860s, movements for attaining basic rights began in Britain. Women demanded their rights for **sufrage and education**.

### First Wave of Feminism in the USA:

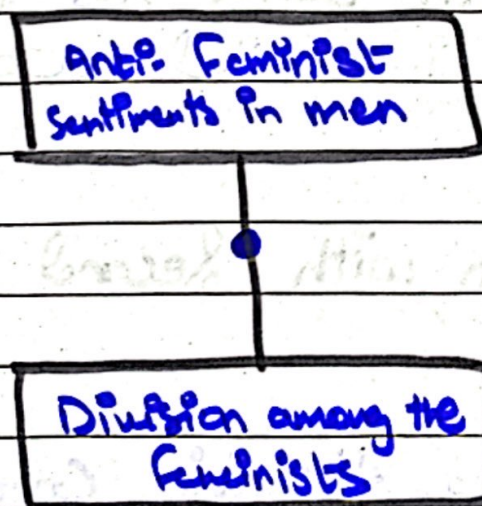
The most important development took place in the US. Women started to demand for their **legislating rights**. Moreover, this timeperiod also saw the rise of radical feminists. In the US, **white women** unified to become a **single force** against anti-women acts. They demanded for all those rights which were available to men and not to women.

## Rise in Unions and Militancy:

With the advent of First wave, there was a rise in Unions such as Union of Women Suffrage. Additionally, separatist groups were also created which demanded rights for women, but these movements died down with the onset of World War-I.

## Division in Feminists and Decline of First wave:

In Britain, the feminist movements began to die down. The major reasons are as given below.



Thereby, rise of different feminists tamed down the first wave and marked the beginning of second wave of feminism.

## THIRD WAVE OF FEMINISM:

Third wave of feminism began in late 90s and by then, women had attained most of their rights. For instance, in 1919, 19th Amendment in US Constitution gave women the right to vote!

## Rise of Different Feminists:

Third wave marked the beginning of different schools of thought which include **post-modern feminists** especially which challenged the notion of gender and sex. In this regard, work of **Judith Butler** has played a crucial role in third wave feminism.

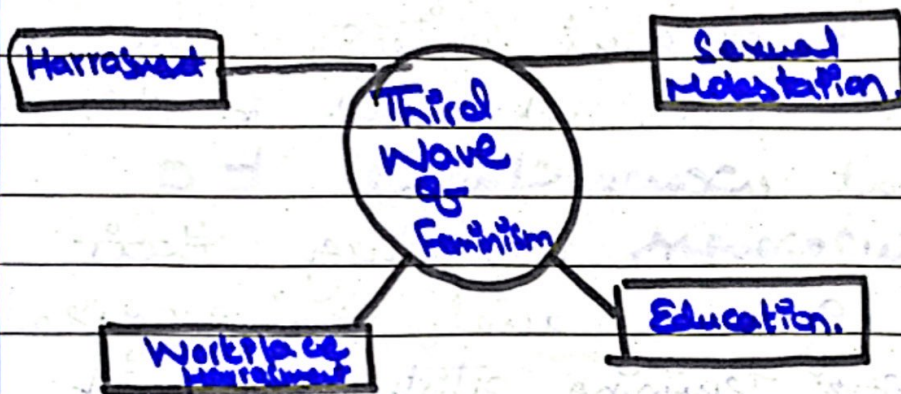
## The connection with Second wave of feminism:

According to the **Atlantic Council**, this golden time period saw the emergence of those women who were the **daughters of second wave feminists**. Among them, the most prominent lady was **Rebecca Walker**.

who marked became quite influential during the third wave feminism.

What did the feminists in third wave want?

Third wave feminism dealt with very important rights of women. It included the following debate:



Resultantly, they got stood up mainly for harassment mainly at workplace because women had gotten most of their rights in the second wave feminism.

**Rise of Heteronormativity:**

Since this wave began to recognize the work of Judith Butler, heteronormativity was greatly acknowledged. There was a rise in recognition

of other genders like **guys** and **lesbians** as Judith Butler has explained that a person is born without a gender and sex is the effect of gender. Thereby, a person constructs his/her gender according to a **society's** expectations.

**A rebellious movement or not?**

According to different writers, the movement was rebellious in the sense that **women started to bring awareness** regarding their different genders and they expressed their **new feminine attitude** with full zeal and zest. Moreover, by this time, **black and white women** became a united force and fought for their rights.

**Conclusion:**

"Women are the best representatives of themselves."

"Harriet M. Taylor.

Undoubtedly, these movements had a snowball effect on all countries and gradually, every head of state started to realize the importance of **women's freedom and equality**. Unfortunately, despite all these efforts women are still underrepresented in different public spheres. Thus, women need to **expedite their efforts** to gain representation around the globe and attract other people through a strong discourse on **women studies**.

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